

**Testimony of Marie C. Lausch**  
**United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 222**  
**Before the Appropriations Committee**  
**2/19/2016**  
**In Support of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

There are a few things that amaze me in this world; That after 45 years in which I have been fighting for women's rights we have still not reached total equality, that there is a need in this enlightened State in which we live for such a Commission in 2016, and that there is such a courageous group of women having such a huge impact on such a shoestring budget as the PCSW. It saddens me that although Connecticut is one of the more progressive states in the union, that women still lag behind in economic, reproductive and social class parity. As a union leader (UE 222) we have counted on PCSW to be a voice for women in CT. The testimony of their leadership helped our low income paraeducators attain healthcare in a workplace for the very first time in Wallingford. Time after time, we use their statistical information in contract negotiations and count on the PCSW to educate our members. As a taxpayer I beg you, DO NOT cut funding for the PCSW, it is a vital resource for women and all citizens in the State of Connecticut. Until total gender equity is achieved in Connecticut, we cannot afford to lose such a valuable resource.